



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS TO SAVE LIVES

Lincoln, Neb., March 28, 2005—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded a grant of \$10,400 to the Village of Chester. Monies will be leveraged with \$3,486 from the Village to purchase a new defibrillator that will help save lives in the area served by the Chester Rescue/Ambulance Unit.

“We are very grateful for USDA’s assistance,” stated Village Chairperson Alan Porter. “Small municipalities, such as ours, find great economic difficulty staying current with emergency medical equipment.”

Housed in the Village’s ambulance, the new defibrillator will help the emergency response team to complete their jobs more effectively, benefiting the near 300 rural residents of Chester and surrounding areas.

“The Chester Village Board and community thanks USDA for their assistance in helping us to reach our goal of updating the village’s emergency equipment,” said Porter.

Community Programs Specialist Janice Stopak of USDA Rural Development stated, “USDA is pleased to help rural communities, such as Chester, to have the updated and reliable equipment they need to provide emergency services to those they serve.”

The Village’s existing defibrillator is no longer reliable and places lives at risk. Repairs are not possible due to the unavailability of replacement parts.

USDA funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant program. Contact Janice Stopak, janice.stopak@ne.usda.gov, 6030 S. 58th Street Suite B Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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